

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

Localism is not served when a corporate headquarters decides to provide one side in local elections a louder voice than others. During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

My understanding is that we still live in a free country and are guaranteed freedom of speech under the first amendment. As a public servant, I am appalled that the media would be so deceptive to our public. It is for reasons such as this that the current administration scares me as I feel it threatens the very policies and doctrines that have made us such a great country all these years. I am concerned about some of our public 'messengers' forgetting their purpose and their obligation to the American public. I am confident you will look into this deception.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest. Their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Further, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard. Thank you.